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(71) Applicant : **ELI LILLY AND COMPANY**
Lilly Corporate Center
Indianapolis Indiana 46285 (US)

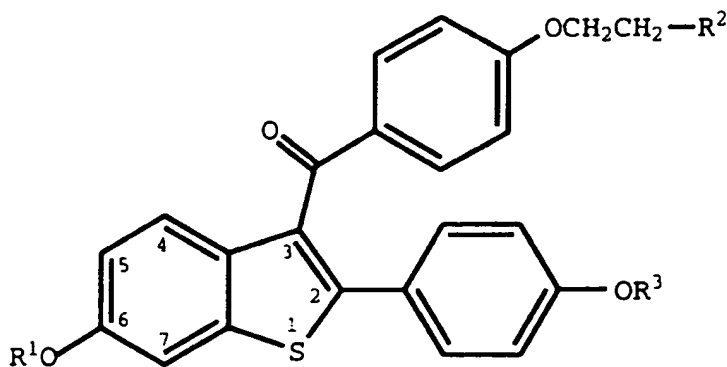
(72) Inventor : **Black, Larry John**
4721 Carson Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227 (US)

Inventor : **Cullinan, George Joseph**
Rural Route 1, Box 468
Trafalgar, Indiana 46181 (US)
Inventor : **Draper, Michael William**
13474 Dallas Lane
Carmel, Indiana 46032 (US)
Inventor : **Jones, Charles David**
223 East Brunswick Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227 (US)
Inventor : **Seyler, David Edward**
830 Oak Boulevard
Greenfield, Indiana 46140 (US)

(74) Representative : **Tapping, Kenneth George et al**
Lilly Industries Limited
European Patent Operations
Erl Wood Manor
Windlesham Surrey GU20 6PH (GB)

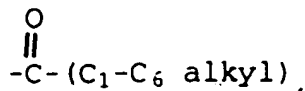
(54) **Methods for inhibiting endometriosis.**

(57) A method of inhibiting endometriosis comprising administering to a human in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound having the formula



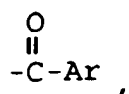
(I)

Wherein R¹ and R³ are independently hydrogen, -CH₃,



or

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wherein Ar is optionally substituted phenyl ;

R² is selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidine and piperidino ; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of solvate thereof.

Endometriosis is a condition of severe dysmenorrhea, which is accompanied by severe pain, bleeding into the endometrial masses or peritoneal cavity and often leads to infertility. The cause of the symptoms of this condition appear to be ectopic endometrial growths which respond inappropriately to normal hormonal control and are located in inappropriate tissues. Because of the inappropriate locations for endometrial growth, the tissue seems to initiate local inflammatory-like responses causing macrophage infiltration and a cascade of events leading to initiation of the painful response. The exact etiology of this disease is not well understood and its treatment by hormonal therapy is diverse, poorly defined, and marked by numerous unwanted and perhaps dangerous side effects.

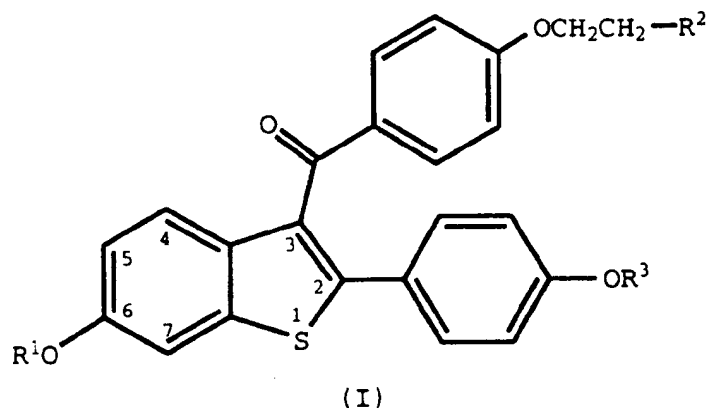
One of the treatments for this disease is the use of low dose estrogen to suppress endometrial growth through a negative feedback effect on central gonadotropin release and subsequent ovarian production of estrogen; however, it is sometimes necessary to use continuous estrogen to control the symptoms. This use of estrogen can often lead to undesirable side effects and even the risk of endometrial cancer.

Another treatment consists of continuous administration of progestins which induces amenorrhea and by suppressing ovarian estrogen production can cause regressions of the endometrial growths. The use of chronic progestin therapy is often accompanied by the unpleasant CNS side effects of progestins and often leads to infertility due to suppression of ovarian function.

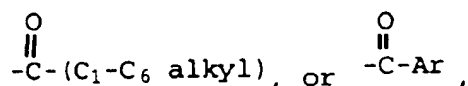
A third treatment consists of the administration of weak androgens, which are effective in controlling the endometriosis; however, they induce severe masculinizing effects. Several of these treatments have also been implicated in causing a mild degree of bone loss with continued therapy.

Therefore, new methods of treating endometriosis are desirable.

This invention provides methods for inhibiting endometriosis, comprising administering to a human in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula I



Wherein R¹ and R³ are independently hydrogen, -CH₃,



wherein Ar is optionally substituted phenyl;

R² is selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidino and piperidino; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

The current invention concerns the discovery that a select group of 2-phenyl-3-arylbenzothiophenes (benzothiophenes), those of formula I, are useful for inhibiting endometriosis. The methods of treatment provided by this invention are practiced by administering to a human in need of inhibition of endometriosis, a dose of a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, that is effective to inhibit endometriosis. The term inhibit is defined to include its generally accepted meaning which includes prophylactically treating a human subject to incurring endometriosis, and holding in check and/or treating existing endometriosis. As such, the present method includes both medical therapeutic and/or prophylactic treatment, as appropriate.

Generally, the compound is formulated with common excipients, diluents or carriers, and compressed into tablets, or formulated as elixirs or solutions for convenient oral administration, or administered by the intramuscular or intravenous routes. The compounds can be administered transdermally, and may be formulated

as sustained release dosage forms and the like.

The compounds used in the methods of the current invention can be made according to established procedures, such as those detailed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,133,814, 4,418,068, and 4,380,635 all of which are incorporated by reference herein. In general, the process starts with a benzo[b]thiophene having a 6-hydroxyl group and a 2-(4-hydroxyphenyl) group. The starting compound is protected, alkylated, and deprotected to form the formula I compounds. Examples of the preparation of such compounds are provided in the U.S. patents discussed above. Substituted phenyl includes phenyl substituted once or twice with C₁-C₈ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, chloro, fluoro, or tri(chloro or fluoro)methyl.

The compounds used in the methods of this invention form pharmaceutically acceptable acid and base addition salts with a wide variety of organic and inorganic acids and bases and include the physiologically acceptable salts which are often used in pharmaceutical chemistry. Such salts are also part of this invention. Typical inorganic acids used to form such salts include hydrochloric, hydrobromic, hydroiodic, nitric, sulfuric, phosphoric, hypophosphoric and the like. Salts derived from organic acids, such as aliphatic mono and dicarboxylic acids, phenyl substituted alkanolic acids, hydroxyalkanoic and hydroxyalkandioic acids, aromatic acids, aliphatic and aromatic sulfonic acids, may also be used. Such pharmaceutically acceptable salts thus include acetate, phenylacetate, trifluoroacetate, acrylate, ascorbate, benzoate, chlorobenzoate, dinitrobenzoate, hydroxybenzoate, methoxybenzoate, methylbenzoate, o-acetoxybenzoate, naphthalene-2-benzoate, bromide, isobutyrate, phenylbutyrate, β -hydroxybutyrate, butyne-1,4-dioate, hexyne-1,4-dioate, caprate, caprylate, chloride, cinnamate, citrate, formate, fumarate, glycollate, heptanoate, hippurate, lactate, malate, maleate, hydroxymaleate, malonate, mandelate, mesylate, nicotinate, isonicotinate, nitrate, oxalate, phthalate, teraphthalate, phosphate, monohydrogenphosphate, dihydrogenphosphate, metaphosphate, pyrophosphate, propionate, propionate, phenylpropionate, salicylate, sebacate, succinate, suberate, sulfate, bisulfate, pyrosulfate, sulfite, bisulfite, sulfonate, benzene-sulfonate, p-bromophenylsulfonate, chlorobenzenesulfonate, ethanesulfonate, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonate, methanesulfonate, naphthalene-1-sulfonate, naphthalene-2-sulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, xylenesulfonate, tartarate, and the like. A preferred salt is the hydrochloride salt.

The pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts are typically formed by reacting a compound of formula I with an equimolar or excess amount of acid. The reactants are generally combined in a mutual solvent such as diethyl ether or benzene. The salt normally precipitates out of solution within about one hour to 10 days and can be isolated by filtration or the solvent can be stripped off by conventional means.

Bases commonly used for formation of salts include ammonium hydroxide and alkali and alkaline earth metal hydroxides, carbonates and bicarbonates, as well as aliphatic and primary, secondary and tertiary amines, aliphatic diamines and hydroxy alkylamines. Bases especially useful in the preparation of addition salts include ammonium hydroxide, potassium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, calcium hydroxide, methylamine, diethylamine, ethylene diamine, cyclohexylamine and ethanolamine.

The pharmaceutically acceptable salts generally have enhanced solubility characteristics compared to the compound from which they are derived, and thus are often more amenable to formulation as liquids or emulsions.

Pharmaceutical formulations can be prepared by procedures known in the art. For example, the compounds can be formulated with common excipients, diluents, or carriers, and formed into tablets, capsules, suspensions, powders, and the like. Examples of excipients, diluents, and carriers that are suitable for such formulations include the following: fillers and extenders such as starch, sugars, mannitol, and silicic derivatives; binding agents such as carboxymethyl cellulose and other cellulose derivatives, alginates, gelatin, and polyvinyl pyrrolidone; moisturizing agents such as glycerol; disintegrating agents such as calcium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate; agents for retarding dissolution such as paraffin; resorption accelerators such as quaternary ammonium compounds; surface active agents such as cetyl alcohol, glycerol monostearate; adsorptive carriers such as kaolin and bentonite; and lubricants such as talc, calcium and magnesium stearate, and solid polyethyl glycols.

The compounds can also be formulated as elixirs or solutions for convenient oral administration or as solutions appropriate for parenteral administration, for instance by intramuscular, subcutaneous or intravenous routes. Additionally, the compounds are well suited to formulation as sustained release dosage forms and the like. The formulations can be so constituted that they release the active ingredient only or preferably in a particular part of the intestinal tract, possibly over a period of time. The coatings, envelopes, and protective matrices may be made, for example, from polymeric substances or waxes.

The particular dosage of a compound of formula I required to inhibit endometriosis, according to this invention will depend upon the severity of the condition, the route of administration, and related factors that will be decided by the attending physician. Generally, accepted and effective daily doses will be from about 0.1 to about 1000 mg/day, and more typically from about 50 to about 200 mg/day. Such dosages will be administered to a subject in need of treatment from once to about three times each day, or more often as needed to

effectively inhibit endometriosis.

It is usually preferred to administer a compound of formula I in the form of an acid addition salt, as is customary in the administration of pharmaceuticals bearing a basic group, such as the piperidino ring. It is also advantageous to administer such a compound by the oral route to an aging human (e.g. a post-menopausal female). For such purposes the following oral dosage forms are available.

Formulations

In the formulations which follow, "Active ingredient" means a compound of formula I.

Formulation 1: Gelatin Capsules

Hard gelatin capsules are prepared using the following:

Ingredient	Quantity (mg/capsule)
Active ingredient	0.1 - 1000
Starch, NF	0 - 650
Starch flowable powder	0 - 650
Silicone fluid 350 centistokes	0 - 15

The ingredients are blended, passed through a No. 45 mesh U.S. sieve, and filled into hard gelatin capsules.

Examples of specific capsule formulations of the compound of formula 1 wherein R² is piperidino, (raloxifene), that have been made include those shown below:

Formulation 2: Raloxifene capsule

Ingredient	Quantity (mg/capsule)
Raloxifene	1
Starch, NF	112
Starch flowable powder	225.3
Silicone fluid 350 centistokes	1.7

Formulation 3: Raloxifene capsule

Ingredient	Quantity (mg/capsule)
Raloxifene	5
Starch, NF	108
Starch flowable powder	225.3
Silicone fluid 350 centistokes	1.7

Formulation 4: Raloxifene capsule

Ingredient	Quantity (mg/capsule)
Raloxifene	10
Starch, NF	103
Starch flowable powder	225.3
Silicone fluid 350 centistokes	1.7

Formulation 5: Raloxifene capsule

Ingredient	Quantity (mg/capsule)
Raloxifene	50
Starch, NF	150
Starch flowable powder	397
Silicone fluid 350 centistokes	3.0

The specific formulations above may be changed in compliance with the reasonable variations provided.

A tablet formulation is prepared using the ingredients below:

Formulation 6: Tablets

Ingredient	Quantity (mg/tablet)
Active ingredient	0.1 - 1000
Cellulose, microcrystalline	0 - 650
Silicon dioxide, fumed	0 - 650
Stearate acid	0 - 15

The components are blended and compressed to form tablets.

Alternatively, tablets each containing 0.1 - 1000 mg of active ingredient are made up as follows:

Formulation 7: Tablets

Ingredient	Quantity (mg/tablet)
Active ingredient	0.1 - 1000
Starch	45
Cellulose, microcrystalline	35
Polyvinylpyrrolidone (as 10% solution in water)	4
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	4.5
Magnesium stearate	0.5
Talc	1

The active ingredient, starch, and cellulose are passed through a No. 45 mesh U.S. sieve and mixed thoroughly. The solution of polyvinylpyrrolidone is mixed with the resultant powders which are then passed through a No. 14 mesh U.S. sieve. The granules so produced are dried at 50°-60° C and passed through a No. 18 mesh U.S. sieve. The sodium carboxymethyl starch, magnesium stearate, and talc, previously passed through a No. 60 U.S. sieve, are then added to the granules which, after mixing, are compressed on a tablet machine to yield tablets.

Suspensions each containing 0.1 - 1000 mg of medicament per 5 mL dose are made as follows:

Formulation 8: Suspensions

Ingredient	Quantity (mg/5 ml)
Active ingredient	0.1 - 1000 mg
Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	50 mg
Syrup	1.25 mg
Benzoic acid solution	0.10 mL
Flavor	q.v.
Color	q.v.
Purified water to	5 mL

The medicament is passed through a No. 45 mesh U.S. sieve and mixed with the sodium carboxymethyl cellulose and syrup to form a smooth paste. The benzoic acid solution, flavor, and color are diluted with some of the water and added, with stirring. Sufficient water is then added to produce the required volume.

TEST PROCEDURE

In Tests 1 and 2, effects of 14-day and 21-day administration of compounds of the invention on the growth of explanted endometrial tissue can be examined.

Test 1

Twelve to thirty adult CD strain female rats are used as test animals. They are divided into three groups of equal numbers. The estrous cycle of all animals is monitored. On the day of proestrus surgery is performed on each female. Females in each group have the left uterine horn removed, sectioned into small squares, and the squares are loosely sutured at various sites adjacent to the mesenteric blood flow. In addition, females in Group 2 have the ovaries removed.

On the day following surgery, animals in Groups 1 and 2 receive intraperitoneal injections of water for 14 days whereas animals in Group 3 receive intraperitoneal injections of 1.0 mg of a compound of the invention per kilogram of body weight for the same duration. Following 14 days of treatment each female is killed and the endometrial explants, adrenals, remaining uterus, and ovaries, where applicable, are removed and prepared for histological examination. The ovaries and adrenals are weighed.

Test 2

Twelve to thirty adult CD strain female rats are used as test animals. They are divided into two equal groups. The estrous cycle of all animals is monitored. On the day of proestrus surgery is performed on each female. Females in each group have the left uterine horn removed, sectioned into small squares, and the squares are loosely sutured at various sites adjacent to the mesenteric blood flow.

Approximately 50 days following surgery, animals assigned to Group 1 receive intraperitoneal injections of water for 21 days whereas animals in Group 2 receive intraperitoneal injections of 1.0 mg of a compound of the invention per kilogram of body weight for the same duration. Following 21 days of treatment each female is killed and the endometrial explants and adrenals are removed and weighed. The explants are measured as an indication of growth. Estrous cycles are monitored.

Test 3

A. Surgical induction of endometriosis

Autographs of endometrial tissue are used to induce endometriosis in rats and/ or rabbits. Female animals at reproductive maturity undergo bilateral oophorectomy and estrogen is supplied exogenously thus providing a specific and constant level of hormone. Autologous endometrial tissue is implanted in the peritoneum of 5-150 animals and estrogen supplied to induce growth of the explanted tissue. Treatment consisting of a compound of the invention is supplied by gastric lavage on a daily basis for 3-16 weeks and implants are removed and measured for growth or regression. At the time of sacrifice, the intact horn of the uterus is harvested to assess status of endometrium.

B. Implantation of human endometrial tissue in nude mice.

Tissue from human endometrial lesions is implanted into the peritoneum of sexually mature, castrated female nude mice. Exogenous estrogen is supplied to induce growth of the explanted tissue. In some cases the harvested endometrial cells are cultured in vitro prior to implantation. Treatment consisting of a compound of the invention is supplied by gastric lavage on a daily basis for 3-16 weeks

and implants are removed and measured for growth or regression. At the time of sacrifice, the uteri is harvested to assess the status of the intact endometrium.

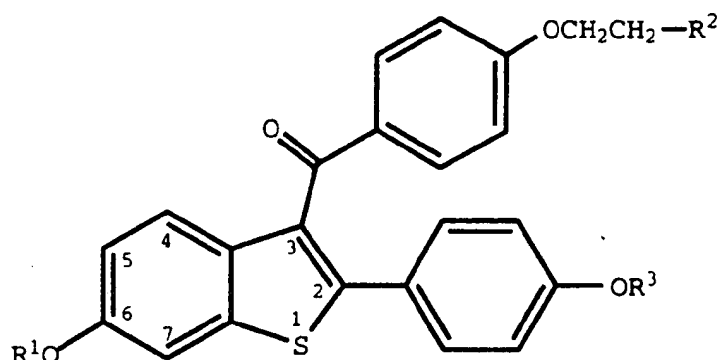
Test 4

A. Tissue from human endometrial lesions is harvested, and maintained in vitro as primary nontransformed cultures. Surgical specimens are pushed through a sterile mesh or sieve or alternately teased apart from surrounding tissue to produce a single cell suspension. Cells are maintained in media containing 10% serum and antibiotics. Rates of growth in the presence and absence of estrogen are determined. Cells are assayed for their ability to produce complement component C3 and their response to growth factors and growth hormone. In vitro cultures are assessed for their proliferative response following treatment with progestins, GnRH, a compound of the invention and vehicle. Levels of steroid hormone receptors are assessed weekly to determine whether important cell characteristics are maintained in vitro. Tissue from 5-25 patients is utilized.

Activity in any of the above assays indicates that the compounds of the invention are useful in the treatment of endometriosis.

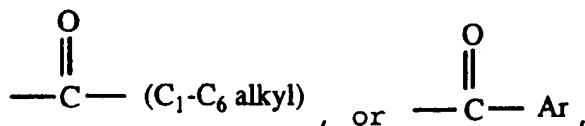
Claims

1. The use of a compound having the formula



(I)

wherein R¹ and R³ are independently hydrogen, -CH₃,



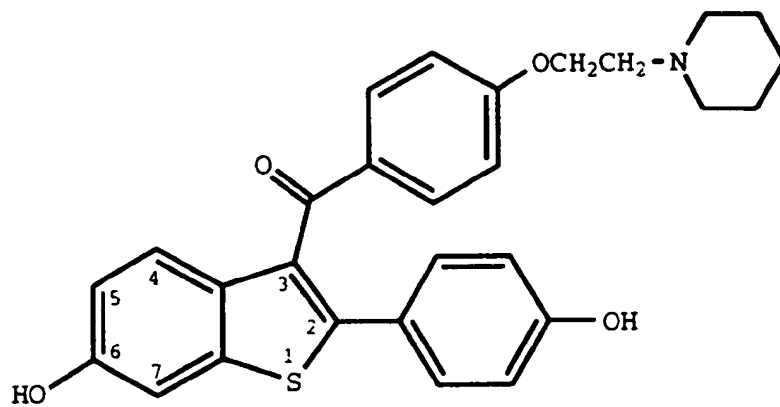
wherein Ar is optionally substituted phenyl;

R² is selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidino and piperidino; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, in the preparation of a medicament useful for inhibiting endometriosis.

2. The use of Claim 1 wherein said compound is the hydrochloride salt thereof.
3. The use of Claim 1 wherein said medicament is prophylactic.
4. The use of Claim 1 wherein said compound is

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or its hydrochloride salt.

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European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 94 30 7528

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	WO-A-93 10113 (TEIKOKU HORMONE MFG CO LTD) 27 May 1993 *abstract and page 3, formula B* ---	1-4	A61K31/445 A61K31/40 A61K31/38
Y	WO-A-93 07290 (KAROBIO AKTIEBOLAG) 15 April 1993 * page 26, line 1 - line 22; claims 10,11 *	1-4	
Y	ENDOCRINOL. JAPON., vol. 35, no.5, 1988 pages 691-696, S. ISHIHARA ET AL. 'Inhibitory effects of estradiol on glycogen synthesis in primary cell cultures of human endometrium' * abstract; figure 3 * ---	1-4	
Y	DATABASE FILE 187, FDC REPORTS Dialog Information Services 1987-1993, Accession No. 00089403, *on-line abstract* & THE PINK SHEET, vol. 55, no.16, 19 April 1993 'Lilly's raloxifene entering phase III for osteoporosis' ---	1-4	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) A61K
D,A	US-A-4 418 068 (JONES) 29 November 1983 * the whole document * -----	1-4	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 24 February 1995	Examiner Foerster, W
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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